

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claim 1-24 (Canceled)

Claims 25 and 26 (Cancelled).

Claim 27 (Currently Amended): An information processing ~~apparatus~~ system to display a prior art document relating to a patent application to be or being prosecuted, comprising:

~~accumulation means for accumulating information about a related prior art document which is cited in a prosecution of a patent application in a first country and a related prior art document cited in another prosecution of a counterpart patent application in a second country different from the first country; and~~

an input unit configured to input a prior art document of a second patent application to be or being prosecuted in a second country with a document number, wherein the document number can be the patent number in the case of an issued patent and the publication number in the case of a published patent application, and wherein the second patent application is in a family of a first patent application to be or being prosecuted in a first country, the family of the first patent application including a group of one or more patent applications each of which having a content substantially equivalent to the content of the first patent application;

a server configured to store the prior art document of the second patent application with the document number input by said input unit via a network, wherein the prior art document input by said input unit becomes readable by using the document number;

~~a display control means for displaying a list of the actual document numbers of the related prior art documents cited in each of the prosecutions of the patent application together with unit configured to display the actual reference number a case number being the reference number of a company of the first patent application to be or being prosecuted together with both the document number of the prior art of the second patent application and country information of the second patent application on a common screen, the document number of the prior art of the second patent application and the country information of the second patent application being obtained from the server.~~

Claim 28 (Currently Amended): The information processing apparatus system according to claim 27, wherein

said display ~~control means~~ unit displays a flag indicating whether or not a prior art disclosure procedure has been performed on the prior art document.

Claim 29 (Currently Amended): The information processing apparatus system according to claim 27, wherein

said display control ~~means~~ unit displays descriptions indicating correspondence between the prior art document and a rejection reason.

Claim 30 (Currently Amended): The information processing apparatus system according to claim 27, wherein

said display control ~~means~~ unit displays a list of applications by which the prior art document has been cited relating to the prior art document.

Claim 31 (Currently Amended): An information processing method of displaying a prior art document relating to a patent application to be or being prosecuted, comprising the steps of:

accumulating information about a related prior art document which is cited in a prosecution of a patent application in a first country and a related prior art document cited in another prosecution of a counterpart patent application in a second country different from the first country; and

an input step of inputting, from an input unit, a prior art document of a second patent application to be or being prosecuted in a second country with a document number, wherein the document number can be a patent number in the case of an issued patent and a publication number in the case of a published patent application, and wherein the second patent application is in a family of a first patent application to be or being prosecuted in a first country, the family of the first patent application including a group of one or more patent applications each of which having a content substantially equivalent to the content of the first patent application;

a storing step of storing, in a server, the prior art document of the second patent application with the document number via a network so that the prior art document input in said input step becomes readable by using the document number; and

a display step of displaying and controlling a list of the actual document numbers of the related prior art documents cited in each of the prosecutions of the patent application together with, at a display unit, the actual reference a case number being the reference number of a company of the first patent application to be or being prosecuted together with both the document number of the prior art of the second patent application and country information of the second patent application on a common screen, the document number of the prior art of the second patent application and the country information of the second patent application being obtained from the server.

Claim 32 (Canceled)

Claims 33-35 (Canceled)

Claim 36. (New) : The information processing system according to claim 27, wherein
said display unit displays a flag indicating whether or not a document or information
disclosure statement citing the prior art document has been filed in the prosecution of the first
patent application in the first country.

Claim 37. (New) An information processing method of claim 31, wherein:
said display step displays at said display unit a flag indicating whether or not a
document or information disclosure statement citing the prior art document has been filed in the
prosecution of the first patent application in the first country.